

RENEWAL

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Till-Mobley Home Named New Chicago Landmark

The childhood home of Emmett Till and his mother, Mamie Till-Mobley, located in West Woodlawn, was designated an official Chicago landmark in January. The home previously was threatened with demolition.

The fate of the two-flat home at 6427 South Lawrence was in doubt after several previous efforts to landmark it proved unsuccessful. But thanks to Preservation Chicago, which spearheaded a years-long effort to save the home, and Naomi Davis, founder and CEO of Woodlawn-based Blacks in Green (BIG), which bought the 125-year-old structure from BMW Properties in 2019, the home not only achieved landmark status but stands to become a powerful tool helping to tackle racism.

The murder of Emmett Till is one of the signal events sparking the Civil Rights movement. Rosa Parks cited it when refusing to give up her seat on a bus in 1955, which then triggered the Montgomery Bus Boycott led by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. It is history like this that demands to be preserved.

According to 20th Ward Alderman Taylor: "A lot of times, African-American history is forgotten. Before there was Trayvon Martin, before there was Eric Garner, there was Emmett Till. We'll repeat history if we don't address it and have those hard conversations."

To ensure that history is not repeated yet again, and that Emmett Till is remembered for generations to come, BIG is planning to transform the home into a museum. BIG recently launched a major fundraising campaign to raise support for The Till-Mobley Great Migration Museum, Garden and Theater.

"The Till-Mobley House finally gets its long overdue honor," said Felicia Dawson, Vice President, POAH Communities.

"We're proud that this vital part of Chicago and America's Black cultural history will survive as a powerful teaching tool in Woodlawn."



W. Miller/Preservation Chicago